



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Food and
Nutrition
Service

SUBJECT: WIC Policy Memorandum 2010-6
Income of 2010 Census Workers

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TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs

A question has been raised regarding whether to count the income received by individuals hired to conduct the 2010 Census when determining WIC income eligibility.

Section 17(b)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 gives the Secretary the authority to conduct certain demonstration projects. Based on this authority, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has issued a memorandum advising State agencies of the opportunity to participate in a demonstration project to exclude earned income of the temporary Census employees for 2010. In addition to SNAP, there are other Federal programs such as the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid, that have legislative authority under their programs to allow State agencies to waive program requirements including counting the income of Census workers.

However, no Federal legislation exists/was enacted to require or allow the WIC Program to exclude the income received by individuals hired to assist in the 2010 Census. Therefore, when traditional income screening procedures are used (rather than adjunct income eligibility based on participation in or certification for SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid), such income must be counted in determining WIC income eligibility.

In an effort to assist new and current applicants hired for the 2010 Census with income screening procedures, WIC State agencies are reminded that WIC regulations (Section 246.7(d)(2)(i)) permit State agencies to instruct the local agency to consider the income of the family during the past 12 months and the family's current rate of income to determine which indicator more accurately reflects the family's status. In general, the length of employment for Census workers is most likely no more than a few months.

WIC State agencies should direct any questions regarding this policy to the appropriate FNS Regional Office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Debra R. Whitford", is positioned above the printed name.

DEBRA R. WHITFORD
Director
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